

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, November 28, 1889, with transcript

Copy of a letter written by A. Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell Twin Oaks, Friday, Nov. 28th, 1889. I enclose copy of letter to Dr. Gallaudet. AGB My dear little wife:

“Storms on the Great Lakes” — “Snow in Wisconsin and Michigan” — newspaper mutterings of the advance of a blizzard and no word of the travellers — made us fear you were snowed up somewhere this side of Chicago. A telegram just received from your father announces your safe arrival at last “Six hours late” — so perhaps you were snowed up after all.

How are you both? We arrived here safely yesterday — and Charlie and Grace carried off your mother and the children leaving me to follow at my leisure. I spent the evening with my father and mother and arrived at Twin Oaks about half-past nine o'clock.

You will be sorry to hear that my Uncle David is quite ill — confined to bed. We are all a little anxious on his account — as his illness is very similar to that which carried off my grand-father — a long-continued and obstinate obstruction of the bowels — no passage for ten days in spite of heroic treatment by Dr. Kerr. Dr. Kerr has called in another doctor in consultation — and this has frightened my uncle — making him think — for the first time — that his case may be serious. He is in low spirits — but otherwise looks well. I have no doubt he will be all right in a day or two — but until some natural movement takes place — there will be anxiety on the part of all who know the circumstances of his father's death. 2 Charlie saw Dr. Kerr tonight — and reports no decided change — we hope for better news tomorrow.

I never saw my mother looking so well before — and my father — as always — is the picture of health.

Library of Congress

I am afraid you must have carried off the keys of the trunks. We cannot find them — and a locksmith or an axe seems to be the only remedy.

I have not said anything to Sarah yet — about coming here. Your mother thinks it would be well for her to talk with her girls first — as the introduction of a new girl (over whom your mother has no control) may upset the household. I think your mother is right — and perhaps it may be better for one of her own girls to look after childrens rooms, etc., etc.,

Been hard at work today correcting proof of appendix to Testimony. Just going to work now on graphical chart of the West family. After dinner — I read aloud to your mother and Miss Weldt (?) — an essay entitled “A few words about the Eighteenth Century” by a Mr. Harrison — a beautifully written — thoughtful production — worth reading and worth studying. If your mother enjoyed my reading half as much as I enjoyed reading to her I shall be glad. My ideal of an evening at home — is — a family circle round a winter fire — and reading aloud — something worth reading in common — so that all may enjoy the mental feast together and discuss it afterwards. When I am all alone my thoughts are apt to run in a narrow rut — and deal only with the subject I happen to be investigating. I enjoy an occasional peep into other minds — and a view of subjects that are foreign to my own thoughts. Harrison's essay has proved in every way refreshing and invigorating — and now I am ready to go back into my rut — and finish the ancestry of the West family of Chilmark.

Elsie and Daisy are as well and as happy as they can be — and your mother's cold is certainly no worse — I think better. Take good care of yourself and your dear father. He is dear to me as well as to you.

Your loving husband, Alec. Mrs. A. Graham Bell “Where Oh — where?”